WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method (200/400) for personalizing rating limits in a parental control system, comprising:

enabling reproduction of a rating sample having a first rating from a first source (201/401);

detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample (202/402);

generating a first transition point based on the user input and the first rating (204/404); and

using the first transition point to determine whether data from the first source is output or blocked (206/405).

2.   The method (200/400) of claim 1, wherein the rating sample further includes a second rating from a second source, and further comprised of:

generating a second transition point based on the user input and the second rating (204/404); and

using the second transition point to determine whether data from the second source is output or blocked (206/405).

3.   The method (200) of claim 1, wherein the user input indicates an MPAA rating (202).

4.   The method (200) of claim 1, wherein the user input indicates a TV Parental Guidelines rating (202).

5.   The method (400) of claim 1, wherein the user input indicates the acceptability of the rating sample for one or more individuals (402).

6.   The method (200/400) of claim 1, wherein the ratings sample comprises at least one of video data, audio data and text data.

7.   An apparatus (100), comprising:

interface means (40) for detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of a rating sample having a first rating from a first source; and

control means (50) for generating a first transition point based on the user input and the first rating, and for using the first transition point to determine whether data from the first source is output or blocked.

8.   The apparatus (100) of claim 7, wherein the rating sample further includes a second rating from a second source, and the control means (50) generates a second transition point based on the user input and the second rating and uses the second transition point to determine whether data from the second source is output or blocked.

9.   The apparatus (100) of claim 7, wherein the user input indicates an MPAA rating.

10.   The apparatus (100) of claim 7, wherein the user input indicates a TV Parental Guidelines rating.

11.   The apparatus (100) of claim 7, wherein the user input indicates the acceptability of the rating sample for one or more individuals.

12.   The apparatus (100) of claim 7, wherein the ratings sample comprises at least one of video data, audio data and text data.

13.   A television signal receiver (100), comprising:

an interface (40) operative to detect a user input indicating the acceptability of a rating sample having a first rating from a first source; and

a processor (50) operative to generate a first transition point based on the user input and the first rating, and to use the first transition point to determine whether data from the first source is output or blocked.

14.   The television signal receiver (100) of claim 13, wherein the rating sample further includes a second rating from a second source, and the processor (50) is operative to generate a second transition point based on the user input and

18

the second rating and to use the second transition point to determine whether data from the second source is output or blocked.

15. The television signal receiver (100) of claim 13, wherein the user input indicates an MPAA rating.

16. The television signal receiver (100) of claim 13, wherein the user input indicates a TV Parental Guidelines rating.

17. The television signal receiver (100) of claim 13, wherein the user input indicates the acceptability of the rating sample for one or more individuals.

18. The television signal receiver (100) of claim 13, wherein the ratings sample comprises at least one of video data, audio data and text data.